

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Applicants respectfully request amending the one paragraph of the Abstract of the Disclosure with the following underlined sentence inserted:

A method and software apparatus for a short-bidding auction manager is disclosed. One embodiment allows potential buyers to submit short-bids, so named because they fall short of an auction seller's asking price, and collects the short-bids on behalf of the auction seller. Additionally, a buyer may submit a bid that is higher or lower than previous bids.

While short-bids are below what is considered acceptable, such bids may be reviewed and individually accepted by the seller, but the highest short-bid is considered the best short-bid offered since the seller intends to realize the most money from the sale. Meanwhile, one embodiment waits for auction completion and automatically consummates transactions for the highest above asking price bid or bids but at any point in time during the auction, short-bids and/or acceptable bids so far may be consummated before the auction ends.

The original detailed description supports this insertion.